

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency
Washington, DC 20250

**Agricultural Resource
Conservation Program
2-CRP (Revision 4)**

Amendment 11

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



Amendment Transmittal

A Reasons for Amendment

The Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 (2007 Act), signed on May 25, 2007, effectively reauthorized EFCRP enrollment authority. The 2007 Act removed the 2006 calendar year deadline for enrollment in EFCRP. This amendment reflects changes in the 2007 Act and incorporates other policy changes.

Subparagraphs 150.1 C, 150.6 A, 150.8 A and Exhibit 2 have been amended to provide that eligible land is land on a tract or portion of a tract.

Subparagraph 150.2 B has been amended to update that CRP enrollment authority is up to 39.2 million acres.

Subparagraph 150.3 A, has been amended to:

- provide that State foresters will evaluate the entire tract of PNIF
- add that foresters will make their best professional judgment about land that has already been cleared, restored, and/or replanted
- change that FSA will review offer data on a quarterly basis
- remove that conservation plans will be developed by NRCS
- add that conservation plans will be reviewed by NRCS.

Subparagraph 150.6 C has been amended to provide new examples for determining total loss.

Subparagraph 150.8 B has been amended to indicate that offers will be evaluated on a quarterly basis.

Subparagraph 150.9 A example has been amended to reflect new dates.

Amendment Transmittal (Continued)

A Reasons for Amendment (Continued)

Subparagraph 150.10 C has been amended to clarify that FSA will provide new discount rates on or about October 1 of each calendar year.

Exhibit 9 has been amended to implement policy changes about C/S.

Exhibit 18.5 has been amended to change the point values for N3 for:

- Subfactor B – Wildlife Beneficial Species – (5 points)
- Subfactor C – Wildlife Enhancement – (15 points).

Page Control Chart		
TC	Text	Exhibit
	6-137 through 6-142 6-145, 6-146 6-149 through 6-154	2, pages 3, 4 9, pages 181, 182 pages 187, 188 18.5, pages 1-4

--Section 5 EFCRP Provisions*150 General EFCRP Information****A Background**

EFCRP was authorized to enroll land in CRP that is PNIF and that experienced a loss of 35 percent or more of merchantable timber in the States suffering forestry damage directly related to the 2005 hurricanes.

The 2005 hurricanes are Hurricanes Dennis, Katrina, Ophelia, Rita, and Wilma.

Offers for EFCRP will be accepted on a rolling signup basis which will be periodically reviewed for acceptability.

During signup, offers will be evaluated on the basis of:

- soil erosion prevention
- water quality improvement
- wildlife habitat restoration
- mitigation of economic loss.

Offers will be ranked at the National Office using a national ranking process. Offers selected will be those that provide the greatest benefits as related to these 4 factors.

B Goals

EFCRP is a conservation program to restore and enhance the forest resources that were severely impacted by the 2005 hurricanes.

C Consistency with CRP Procedure

Unless otherwise noted, all other provisions of CRP apply to EFCRP.

References to CRP-1 shall mean CRP-1L for EFCRP purposes.--*

150.1 Land and Producer Eligibility**A States and Counties Authorized for EFCRP**

EFCRP is eligible in primary Presidential- or Secretarial-designated counties associated with the 2005 hurricanes which includes Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Texas. See Exhibit 18 for eligible counties.

B Eligibility for Owners and Operators

Persons determined eligible for CRP according to Part 5 may request to enroll certain acreage in EFCRP according to this section.

C Eligibility Requirement

--Eligible land is land on a tract or a portion of a tract that:--

- is located in a primary Presidential- or Secretarial-designated county according to Exhibit 18

Note: For tracts that overlap eligible and ineligible counties, at least 51 percent of the eligible land in a tract must be located in an eligible county.

- is PNIF
- before the hurricane, was merchantable timber with an average tree diameter of at least 6 inches at 4 ½ feet above ground level
- suffered a minimum of 35 percent loss of merchantable timber because of 1 or more 2005 hurricanes

Note: See subparagraph E for determining loss.

- was owned by a State school trust with PNIF.

Notes: Corporations whose stocks are publicly traded or owners or lessees principally engaged in the primary processing of raw wood products are excluded.

No minimum acreage size is authorized for EFCRP.

150.2 Acreage Limitations and Practice Eligibility**A 25 Percent Cropland Limitation**

The 25 percent cropland limitation does **not** apply to EFCRP. Counties that are over the 25 percent cropland may accept enrollment of eligible land in EFCRP.

B CRP Acreage Enrollment Limitation

*--Land enrolled in EFCRP does **not** count against the CRP authorized enrollment level of up to 39.2 million acres.--*

C Authorized Practices

Practices authorized for continuous signup enrollment in CRP under EFCRP are the following:

- CP35A, Emergency Forestry – Longleaf Pine – New
- CP35B, Emergency Forestry – Longleaf Pine – Existing
- CP35C, Emergency Forestry – Bottomland Hardwood – New
- CP35D, Emergency Forestry – Bottomland Hardwood – Existing
- CP35E, Emergency Forestry – Softwood – New
- CP35F, Emergency Forestry – Softwood – Existing
- CP35G, Emergency Forestry – Upland Hardwood – New
- CP35H, Emergency Forestry – Upland Hardwood – Existing
- CP35I, Emergency Forestry – Mixed Trees – Existing.

Practices must be determined suitable for site conditions by the technical agency to be authorized/enrolled.

See Exhibit 9 for practice write-ups for CP35A, CP35B, CP35C, CP35D, CP35E, CP35F, CP35G, CP35H, and CP35I.

150.3 Processing Offers for EFCRP

A EFCRP Activities

The following table provides a chronological guide for processing EFCRP.

Step	Action
1	FSA will announce EFCRP through press release, newsletter, and any other available means. In addition, State and County Offices will conduct additional outreach activities to ensure high participation of low income and minority producers.
2	<p>A producer is interested in enrolling in EFCRP. County Offices will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review EFCRP with the producer • provide the producer with the EFCRP fact sheet and discuss applicable payment options (annual or lump sum payment) • explain producer, land, and other eligibility requirements • explain to the producers the suitability of the acreage offered and kept associated with various conservation practices (CP35A, CP35B, CP35C, CP35D, CP35E, CP35F, CP35G, CP35H, and CP35I) • review BI used to rank offers for enrollment into EFCRP according to Exhibit 18.5.
3	The producer will initiate EFCRP offer, indicate acreage offered, and identify acreage on aerial photograph.
4	County Offices will use the EFCRP software to generate CRP-2F.
5	<p>County Office will provide a copy of CRP-2F and an aerial photograph of the acreage offered to the designated State Forester. The tract boundary will be outlined on the aerial photograph.</p> <p>Note: The State Office will provide each County Office the list of designated State *--Foresters. State Foresters need to evaluate the entire tract to account for acreage increase if the producer so chooses after the initial service Forester visit.--*</p>
6	<p>The State Forester, based on a site visit, will determine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • percent of loss • erosion potential • wildlife suitability • water quality impacts • assessment of the pre-disaster condition • suitability of the acreage offered for the various practices (CP35A – CP35I). • whether the land offered is merchantable timber • whether the land offered is PNIF. <p>*--Note: For land already cleared, restored, and/or replanted, the service Forester will give his/her best professional judgment based on aerial photography, site visits, and/or knowledge of damage in the vicinity.--*</p>

150.3 Processing Offers for EFCRP (Continued)

A EFCRP Activities (Continued)

Step	Action
7	The State Forester will return CRP-2F to FSA with all applicable items completed. FSA will review and enter data into the EFCRP software. EFCRP software will validate data.
8	The producer will choose a practice for the acreage offered within the practices deemed suitable by the State Forester.
9	County Offices will complete CRP-1L with at least 1 signature.
10	Offers will be ranked and producers will be notified, in writing, of acceptable offers and status of offers that were not acceptable. Note: FSA will review offer data. * * * Offers not determined acceptable will be considered for future selection. Producers will be notified, in writing, of the status of the offer. After the final ranking period, those offers not considered acceptable will be rejected.
11	County Offices will complete paid for measurement service for the acreage offered if appropriate.
12	A conservation plan will be developed by the Forest Service or designated State Forester, * * * or TSP. Note: The Forest Service * * * or TSP will work with the producer in developing the conservation plan.
13	Conservation plans will be approved by the conservation district, if applicable. *--Conservation plans will be reviewed by NRCS.--*
14	COC, or designee, will provide final approval of conservation plan.
15	The producer will sign CRP-1L.
16	COC, or designee, will approve CRP-1L and producer will be notified of approval.
17	The contract approval date will be loaded into the EFCRP software.
18	Within 30 days after the start of the contract, FSA will issue a lump sum payment to the producer, if applicable. The first annual rental payment, if applicable, will be issued after 1 year after the effective date of the contract.

--150.4 Completing Forms*A Entering Form Data**

All CRP-2F and CRP-1L data shall be entered in the EFCRP software. EFCRP has a limited funding and the EFCRP software ensures fiscal controls, accountability, and program performance data. Data must be loaded in a timely manner.

Note: There is no manual forms process for FSA's portions of EFCRP forms.

150.5 Completing CRP-2F**A Guidance for Completing CRP-2F's**

CRP-2F:

- must be completed for all acreage on which a producer submits an offer
- is used for the following:
 - making eligibility determinations
 - obtaining ranking data and statistics on acreage offered for EFCRP.

Item numbers 1 through 12 must be completed before the producer's signature and date in item 13A and 13B.

All item numbers must be completed before the producer signs CRP-2F, item 22. All changes to data entered on CRP-2F after the producer signs CRP-2F must be initialed and dated by both the employee making the change and the producer.

CRP-2F is:

- a computer-generated form
- provided for display purposes only.--*

150.6 Determining Loss

A Loss of Merchantable Timber

Loss of merchantable timber is defined as the difference between the pre-hurricane economic value of the amount of eligible land on the acreage offered for enrollment in EFCRP and the post-hurricane economic value of the acreage offered using the spring--* 2006 Timber Mart-South prices.

B Loss of Value

The designated technical agency representative (State Forester) will do an onsite visit for the tract offered for enrollment. The State Forester will evaluate and determine the following:

- type of tree
- quantity of timber
- quality of timber.

The results of their site visit will be recorded on CRP-2F.

C Examples of Determining Total Loss

***--Example 1:** A producer with a 100-acre tract of land that contains longleaf pine would like to enroll 50 acres of PNIF in EFCRP. Eighty acres of longleaf pine and a 20 acre soybean field as of August 1, 2005. The longleaf pines were 10 inches in diameter and the land was PNIF. The producer wishes to enroll only 50 acres of longleaf pine that were the most heavily damaged by Hurricane Katrina. The remaining 30 acres of longleaf pine will be harvested within 5 years. The pre-hurricane value of the 50 acres was \$20,000 and the post-hurricane value is \$1,000.

The 50 acres of longleaf pine is eligible for enrollment in EFCRP and the percent loss is:

$$\begin{aligned} & \$20,000 \text{ (pre-hurricane)} - \$1,000 \text{ (post-hurricane)} = \$19,000 \div \$20,000 \\ & \text{(pre-hurricane value)} = .95 \text{ or } 95 \text{ percent loss.} \end{aligned}$$

150.6 Determining Loss (Continued)**C Examples of Determining Loss (Continued)**

***--Example 2:** A producer with a 100-acre tract of loblolly pine wants to enroll only 20 acres damaged by a tornado associated with a 2005 hurricane. The 20 acre pre-hurricane value was \$20,000 and the post-hurricane value is \$1,000. The entire tract was determined PNIF.

The 20 acres of loblolly pine impacted by the tornado are eligible for enrollment in the EFCRP. The land is PNIF. The percent loss is:

$\$20,000$ (pre-hurricane value) - $\$1,000$ (after-hurricane value) = $\$19,000$
economic loss

Percent loss = economic loss/pre hurricane = $\$19,000/\$20,000 = 95$ percent
loss.--*

Example 3: A producer, with 100 acres of 30-year-old loblolly pine, clear cut 48 acres 1 month before the hurricane hit. The land is PNIF and suffered a 100 percent loss.

A producer has a 100-acre tract that is all PNIF. Fifty-two acres had 30 year old loblolly standing at the time of the hurricane and experienced a 100 percent loss. The other 48 acres had been clear cut 1 month before the hurricane hit.

The land that was clear cut 1 month before the hurricane is not eligible. The remaining 52 acres would be eligible.

***--Example 4:** A producer with a 200-acre tract of oak trees wants to enroll only 50 acres in EFCRP. The 50 acres the producer wishes to enroll sustained some damage. The remaining 150 acres sustained damage but the damage was not uniform. The producer only wants to offer the 50 acres. The offer is not eligible because the 50 acres offered do not meet the 35 percent loss provisions. The forester informs the producer that some of the other oaks on the remaining 150 acres may not look damaged but will likely die in the coming years. With this information, the producer decides to offer a total of 70 acres of the most damaged trees. The offer meets the 35 percent loss requirement.--*

[illegible]

150.8 Reviewing and Ranking Offers

A Reviewing Offers

COC, or designee, shall ensure that:

- *--producers have submitted offers for EFCRP by tract or portion of tract--*
- CRP-1L was signed
- CRP-1L signatories have an interest in the acreage offered
- CRP-1L contains at least 1 eligible signature.

Note: Producers shall be notified that they have 15 calendar days from the date of notification informing them that their offer was acceptable to obtain all signatures, or CRP-1L will **not** be approved.

See paragraph 198 for signature requirements.

B National Ranking

--FSA will evaluate offers on a quarterly basis beginning September 30.--

Eligible offers not selected for a particular ranking period will be rolled over to the next period. For the final ranking period, FSA will select the most desirable offers, subject to available funding.

C Eligibility Review

COC shall review the acceptable offers to ensure that all eligibility criteria have been met for all offers determined acceptable by the FSA National Office.

D Notifying Producers

COC, or designee, shall notify producers, using CRP-100, CRP-101, CRP-102, CRP-103, and CRP-104 (Exhibit 17) of the status of their offer as soon as the list of acceptable offers is received and COC has conducted an eligibility review.

150.9 Contract Duration and Program Year

A Contract Duration and Effective Date

The CRP-1L period for EFCRP is 10 years.

The effective date of CRP-1L is the first day of the month following the month COC approves CRP-1L. EFCRP contracts will expire at the end of the month throughout the year, depending upon the month of the effective date.

***--Example:** A producer signs CRP-1L on August 17, 2007. COC approves CRP-1L on September 27, 2007. The effective date of the EFCRP contract is October 1, 2007. The contract period is October 1, 2007, through September 30, 2016.--*

Note: The producer may **not** defer the effective date of CRP-1L.

B Program Year

The program year is FY in which the first payment is earned.

C Continuous Signup Number

EFCRP shall use signup number 34.

150.10 Payments and Payment Limitation

A EFCRP Payment Options

Participants may elect to receive either an annual rental payment or a lump sum payment.

B Annual Rental Payment

Participants may receive annual rental payments on the land enrolled in EFCRP. The EFCRP rental payment rate is the average rental rate for CRP contracts in the county. The annual rental payment is the EFCRP rental rate multiplied times the number of acres of the EFCRP contract. See Exhibit 18 for the EFCRP average rental rates for each county.

Note: Where no CRP contracts were enrolled in a county, the EFCRP rental rate is the CRP rental rate applicable to a nearby similarly-situated county.

Example: A producer enrolls 10 acres in EFCRP in Lafayette Parish, Louisiana. Lafayette Parish average rental rate for current CRP contracts is \$30 per acre.

10 acres X \$30 per acre = \$3,000. The annual rental payment is \$3,000.

The annual rental rate in Exhibit 18 incorporates any annual maintenance payment. There shall be **no** additional maintenance rates added to the annual rental rate.

Note: See subparagraph 372 B for issuing annual payments for EFCRP contracts for CRP-1L's.

Exception: Annual payments are scheduled to be issued starting 1 year after the anniversary of the effective date of the contract.

C Lump-Sum Payment

Participants may select to receive a lump-sum payment for the EFCRP contract. The lump-sum payment is a one-time payment for the 10-year EFCRP contract period. The payment will be issued within 30 calendar days from the date COC approves CRP-1L.

A lump sum payment means the present value of the 10 annual payments based on a 5 percent discount rate.

***--Note:** The applicable discount rate shall be the discount rate at the time the contract is signed. FSA will provide a new discount rate on or about October 1 each year. The discount rate should remain in effect throughout the FY.--*

--150.10 Payments and Payment Limitation (Continued)*C Lump Sum Payment (Continued)**

Example 1: A producer enrolls 10 acres into EFCRP in Lafayette Parish, Louisiana (average SRR on existing CRP contracts is \$30) and chooses the lump sum payment. The producer will receive the present value of 10 annual payments of \$300. The producer would receive a one-time lump sum payment of \$2,317 for the 10 acres.

Under a lump sum payment, a producer may receive a one-time payment that exceeds the CRP annual payment limitation of \$50,000. However, no producer shall receive an amount larger than the PV of \$50,000 per year for 10 years.

Example 2: A producer, who has no other CRP contracts, enrolls 1,000 acres in Perry County (average CRP rental rate = \$30). The producer elects to receive a lump sum payment (\$231.65 per acre). The producer will receive a lump sum payment of \$231,650. The annual rental payment for payment limitation purposes is \$30 per acre X 1,000 acres = \$30,000 per year.

D Payment Limitation for Lump Sum Payment

For payment limitation purposes, lump sum recipients will be treated as the equivalent of 10 annual payments.

Example: A producer receives a lump sum payment of \$233,650. The payment is based on the present value of 10 annual payments of \$30,000.

E C/S Payments

CCC will pay up to 50 percent of the eligible cost of establishing a permanent cover.

F Other Federal C/S

EFCRP participants receiving other Federal C/S payments are **not** eligible to receive or retain EFCRP C/S on the same acreage.

Exception: If the payments received are not considered C/S, or the other program's activity is fully completed before the effective date of the EFCRP contract, then the EFCRP participant may receive EFCRP C/S. Fully completed means that all activity is finished and a payment made with no further obligations.

Example: A producer offers to enroll 1,000 acres. The contract is approved and she receives \$24,000 in C/S payments. The producer applies for C/S assistance from another Federal program. If the producer receives other Federal C/S assistance, then the producer is no longer eligible to retain or receive CRP C/S payments.--*

150.10 Payments and Payment Limitation (Continued)**G Incentive Payments**

Wetland restoration incentives, * * * SIP, PIP, and SRR incentives are **not** authorized for EFCRP.

Important: Incentive payments are **not** authorized for EFCRP.

Note: EFCRP rental rates provide funding to carryout maintenance activities.

H Payment Limitation

Payment limitation provisions apply to participants enrolled in EFCRP. In the case of more than 1 producer, payments limitations for lump sum payments will be based on what the equivalent annual payment would be for the contract time of that producer's share.

150.11 Contract Activities**A Mid-Contract Management**

EFCRP contracts are required to have appropriate mid-contract management measures implemented during the contract as designated in the conservation plan as determined by STC in consultation with the State Technical Committee.

See paragraph 239 for mid-contract management activities.

B Thinning Activities

Thinning activities may be conducted during the contract provided that the activities are incorporated in the approved conservation plan. Thinning activities must be carried out in a manner consistent with the terms and conditions of the conservation plan. Appropriate payment reduction will apply. A payment reduction rate will be assessed or an annual payment reduced equal to the annual rental payment (Exhibit 18) multiplied times the amount of acres thinned. A producer who received a lump sum payment will be required to *--refund an amount equal to the amount of acres thinned times the average CRP county rental rate.--*

Producers must file CRP-37 before thinning activity may begin according to paragraph 268.

151 (Reserved)

Definitions of Terms Used in This Handbook (Continued)**Easement Practice**

An easement practice is a practice that requires an easement be filed for a specific period of time that identifies FSA real property interest.

Erodibility Index (EI)

--EI is the revised universal soil loss equation factor used to determine the inherent erodibility of a soil without management by dividing the potential average annual rate of erosion (rainfall factor times soil erodibility times (length of slope and percentage slope factor)) for each soil by the-- predetermined soil loss tolerance (T) value for the soil.

Field Windbreak

A field windbreak is a vegetative barrier with a linear configuration composed of:

- trees
- shrubs
- approved perennial vegetation.

Gleaning

Gleaning is placing livestock on fields after harvesting to use the excess crop residue and grains that remain in the field.

Infeasible to Farm

Infeasible to farm means an area that is too small or isolated to be economically farmed.

Loss of Merchantable Timber (for EFCRP purposes)

Loss of merchantable timber is defined as the difference between the pre-hurricane economic value of eligible land on the acreage offered for enrollment in EFCRP and the post-hurricane economic value of the entire acreage offered using the spring 2006 Timber Mart-South prices.--*

Merchantable Timber

Merchantable timber is timber on private non-industrial forest land on which the average tree has a trunk diameter of at least 6 inches measured at least 4 ½ feet above the ground.

Definitions of Terms Used in This Handbook (Continued)**Non-C/S Payment**

A non-C/S payment is any CRP payment that is not a C/S payment.

Participant

A participant is an owner or operator who has entered into CRP-1.

Perennial Stream

Perennial stream is a stream that contains water throughout the year. An on-site field visit may be required to make the determination.

***--Private Nonindustrial Forestland (PNIF)**

PNIF is land with existing tree cover that is owned by an individual, group, association, corporation, Indian Tribe, other legal private entity, or person who receives concurrence from the landowner for practice implementation or State school trust land.--*

Recharge Area

A recharge area is the area that contributes ground water and salts to the high water table in the discharge area or saline seep. The saline seep cannot be controlled without lowering the ground water in the recharge area. Recharge areas for seeps less than 5 acres shall not exceed a ratio of 10 acres of recharge area per 1 acre of saline seep.

Retention

Retention is the likelihood that the practice established will persist and be maintained beyond the lifespan of CRP-1 and will provide benefits beyond the contract period.

Riparian Buffer

Riparian buffer is a strip of vegetation the purpose of which is to remove nutrients, sediment, organic matter, pesticides, and other pollutants from surface runoff and subsurface flow by deposition, absorption, plant uptake, and other processes, thereby reducing pollution and protecting surface water and subsurface water quality, which are also intended to provide shade to reduce water temperature for improved habitat for aquatic organisms and supply large woody debris for aquatic organisms and habitat for wildlife.

National CRP Practices (Continued)

CP35C Emergency Forestry – Bottomland Hardwood – New (Continued)

D C/S Policy

The following table provides C/S policies for this practice.

IF the component is...	AND the justification is...	THEN C/S is...
to establish a minimum of 3 different varieties of mast producing hardwood tree and shrub species Notes: The hardwood species may include cottonwoods planted between the rows of hardwood. The cottonwoods serve as a nurse crop for the other hardwoods and may be thinned. * * *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to reduce erosion from wind or water provide food and cover for waterfowl and other wildlife improve surface or ground water quality 	authorized.
debris removal	required to establish a stand or assist in the natural regeneration	
wildlife enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides cover opening that will provide additional wildlife benefits to the stand to establish and maintain a cover that provides habitat for wildlife in otherwise open areas. This may relate to debris removal and salvage activities (planting load landings, temporary roads, etc.) 	
to establish no more than 25 percent of the silviculturally appropriate softwood species, as determined by STC and determined appropriate by State Forester	to enhance 1 of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> wetland development wildlife habitat hardwood stand health and vigor 	
temporary cover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> required in the practice specification needed until required planting stock is available needed because normal planting period for the species has passed to establish a cover where a solid condition, such as chemical residue, will not immediately allow establishment of permanent cover 	
seeding firebreaks, fuelbreaks, or firelanes	to establish and maintain the cover according to State requirements	
herbicides or insecticides	specified as necessary in the approved tree planting plan to establish the cover	
minerals or nutrients	substantiated as needed by COC to establish the approved cover	
clean tilling	for firebreaks, fuelbreaks, or firelanes	

National CRP Practices (Continued)

*--CP35C Emergency Forestry – Bottomland Hardwood – New (Continued)

D C/S Policy (Continued)

IF the component is...	AND the justification is...	THEN C/S is...
tree shelters, netting, plastic tubes, or other animal control devices	approved by STC for the area and substantiated as needed by technician and COC to prevent damage from wildlife browsing Note: STC must designate areas where using such measures is warranted and cost-effective to protect seedlings.	authorized not to exceed an average cost, as determined by STC.
fencing		not authorized.
roads		
annual food plots		
to establish a hardwood tree species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for ornamental purposes • for Christmas trees • nursery tree production • production of commercial nuts, other than species customarily planted for forestry purposes 	
herbicides or insecticides	to maintain the vegetative cover including trees	
tree thinning		

--*

National CRP Practices (Continued)

***--CP35D Emergency Forestry – Bottomland Hardwood – Existing (Continued)**

C Eligibility

To be eligible for C/S, this practice shall:

- reduce excessive erosion to an acceptable level and increase sediment trapping efficiencies
- improve surface or ground water quality
- restore or enhance forestland that has been extensively damaged by the 2005 hurricanes
- reduce scour, gully, stream bank, sheet, or rill erosion
- prevent excessive erosion from occurring
- enhance food and cover for wildlife
- be maintained for the life of CRP-1L
- be included in the approved conservation plan.--*

National CRP Practices (Continued)

CP35D Emergency Forestry – Bottomland Hardwood – Existing (Continued)

D C/S Policy

The following table provides C/S policies for this practice.

IF the component is...	AND the justification is...	THEN C/S is...
temporary cover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> required in the practice specification needed until required planting stock is available needed because normal planting period for the species has passed to establish a cover where a solid condition, such as chemical residue, will not immediately allow establishment of permanent cover 	authorized.
debris removal	required to establish a stand or assist in the natural regeneration	
wildlife enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides cover opening that will provide additional wildlife benefits to the stand to establish and maintain a cover that provides habitat for wildlife in otherwise open areas. This may relate to debris removal and salvage activities (planting load landings, temporary roads, etc.) 	
seeding firebreaks, fuelbreaks, or firelanes	to establish and maintain the cover according to State requirements	
herbicides or insecticides	specified as necessary in the approved tree planting plan to establish the cover	
minerals or nutrients	substantiated as needed by COC to establish the approved cover	
clean tilling	for firebreaks, fuelbreaks, or firelanes	*--not authorized.--*
tree thinning		

EFCRP BI and National Calculation Factors

1 EFCRP BI

A Overview

BI will be used to rank and prioritize offers for enrollment into EFCRP.

B BI Process and Factor Scoring

Producers must be provided a fact sheet describing BI. FSA will review BI with the producer to ensure that the producer is familiar with the scoring process. The producer shall sign CRP-2F to certify their awareness if the scoring process is used for EFCRP.

C Overview of National BI

The National BI includes the following 4 factors.

- N1, Erosion (50 or 100 points)
- N2, Water Quality (50 or 100 points)
- *--N3, Wildlife (5 to 100 points; comprised of cover type and wildlife enhancement)--*
- N4, Mitigation of Economic Loss (20 to 100 points; comprised of percent loss and value loss per acre).

The National BI is calculated according to the following.

$N1 + N2 + N3 + N4 = \text{National BI score}$

***--EFCRP BI and National Calculation Factors (Continued)**

1 EFCRP BI (Continued)

C Overview of National BI (Continued)

The following illustrates the National ranking factors.

Factor	Point Range	Scoring Parameters
N1	50 or 100 points	Erosion factor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gully erosion present = 100 points • No gully erosion present = 50 points
N2	50 or 100 points	Water quality factor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent stream, river, lake, and/or wetland on the acreage = 100 points • No permanent water and/or wetland on site = 50 points
N3	10 to 100 points	Wildlife factor that takes into account the type of cover and density of cover along with enhancements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover type = 10 to 80 point • Wildlife beneficial species = 10 points • Wildlife enhancements = 10 points.
N4	20 to 100 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprised of percent loss (10 to 50 points) • Value loss per acre (10 to 50 points)

--*

***--EFCRP BI and National Calculation Factors (Continued)**

2 EFCRP BI Calculation Factors

A National Ranking Factor N1 – Erosion

Formula/Point Value: **Erosion** = 50 or 100 points

Gully Erosion Potential	Point Value
Slight. The site is on average less than 6 percent slope. There is little potential for gully erosion. The site (soils, slope, existing conditions) has low potential gully erosion. Gully erosion is not present on the acreage offered.	50
High. The site on average has greater than or equal to 6 percent slope. There is high potential for gully erosion. Active gully erosion is present on the acreage offered.	100

B National Ranking Factor N2 – Water Quality

Formula/Point Value: **Water Quality** = 50 or 100 points

Permanent Water Bodies on the Site	Point Value
Low. There are no permanent (i.e. streams, rivers, ponds, lakes) and/or wetlands on the acreage offered.	50
High. There are permanent (i.e. streams, rivers, ponds, lakes) and/or wetlands present on the acreage offered. There is no buffer from the site to the water body.	100

Water Quality Improvement

For purposes of ranking, water quality improvement is determined by permanent water on the offered acreage. A permanent water body is any of the following:

- lake
- pond
- stream
- river.

Wetlands with water areas capable of reducing damages by sedimentation and associated pollutants must be a combination of the following:

- permanently flooded - water covers the land surface throughout the year in all years
- intermittently exposed - surface water is present throughout the year, except in years of extreme drought
- semi-permanently flooded - surface water is present throughout the growing season in most years
- seasonally flooded - surface water is present for extended periods of not less than 21 calendar days especially in the growing season, but is absent by the end of the growing season in most years.

Note: When surface water is absent, the water table is at or very near the land surface. --*

EFCRP BI and National Calculation Factors (Continued)

2 EFCRP BI Calculation Factors (Continued)

C National Ranking Factor N3 – Wildlife Habitat Benefits

Formula/Point Value is: **Wildlife Habitat Benefits** = Subfactor A (10 to 80 points) +
Subfactor B – Wildlife Beneficial Species (10 points)

The N3 factor is determined based on the weighted average value for the land offered for enrollment. The score would be the sum of all the values (based on the score for the site, multiplied by the acres) divided by the sum of all acres.

Subfactor A – Cover and Practices Beneficial to Wildlife (10 to 80 points)

Planting Details	Points
New planting or establishment of pine or other softwood species less than 500 trees/acres.	80
New planting or establishment of hardwood species; low to medium density (less than 500 trees/acres).	
Existing stand of trees with basal area of 30 – 60 square feet per acre.	60
Existing stand of trees with residual basal area of 60 – 80 square feet per acre.	50
New planting or establishment of softwood species at greater than 500 trees per acre.	20
New planting or establishment of hardwood species at greater than 500 trees per acre.	
Existing stand of trees with residual basal area greater than 80 square feet per acre.	10

Note: The 10 point additive wildlife enhancement will still apply.

***--Subfactor B - Wildlife Beneficial Species - (5 points)**

Additional points (5) will be assigned for both Longleaf and Bottomland Hardwood species. These tree species have been found to promote habitat and nesting for wildlife.

Subfactor C – Wildlife Enhancement – (15 points)--*

Points are assigned if the producer implements wildlife enhancement measures on the tree stand. These enhancements include planting wildlife appropriate cover on skidder trails, loading decks, other areas used during debris removal or salvage operations, and other appropriate land.